

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:127  
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2003  
EXPENDITURE ON HEALTH  
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI;SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI

**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Indian chapter of the World Commission of Macroeconomics and Health has been formally launched on January 9, 2003;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Adviser to UN Secretary General has pointed out that India needs to spend more on health and the Commission would help Indian States to get more financial assistance from the International Agencies;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether his Ministry has approached the Finance Ministry to provide necessary funds for health sector; and
- (f) if so, the result thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a)to(f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 127 FOR 26.2.2003

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. The National Commission on Macroeconomics and Health (NCMH) was formally launched by the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare on 9th January, 2003. Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, Chairman, W.H.O. Commission on Macroeconomics and Health and Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General was the Guest of Honour. The proposed Commission is to be jointly chaired by Union Ministers of Finance and Health & Family Welfare. Necessary formalities to set up the proposed NCMH are under finalization.

(c)to(f): The need for increasing investment in the health sector in India was emphasized during the inauguration of the proposed Commission. The terms of reference of the proposed Commission will include identification of the priority areas for health intervention and the financing strategies to address these priorities. Based on the recommendations contained in the Report, as also the magnitude of financial resources required for scaling up essential health interventions, further details like domestic funding vis-à-vis external sourcing would be worked out.